

FY04 Goals – P2 (Pollution Prevention) / Sustainability Website

One of the goals of the P2 Committee for FY04 was to make available a P2/Sustainability website, for the general GRC audience. The eventual goal is to make this site available to the general public, to share NASA's green activities and to advocate for environmental stewardship locally and globally.

NASA Glenn Research Center (GRC) has been developed many products, processes, and ideas to create and support local and global sustainability. The concept of Greening the Government was encouraged by presidential Executive Orders during the 1990s and beyond, but GRC was involved in creating basic alternative energy systems long before that, in the 1970s and later, in the areas of wind and solar power.

The P2 Committee was formed at GRC in the mid-1990s, and was made official during 2001. Since the beginning, many recycling efforts were put in place, including batteries, mixed paper, and phone books; and there are current efforts to recycle Styrofoam and work gloves. Affirmative Procurement policies focused on buying recycled and biobased content products and furniture. And a rating system was developed for industrial and consumer products, to rank products on environmental preferability, using life cycle analysis tools.

Larger projects were researched and will be implemented, including a Real Time Environmental Monitoring System, a garnet and water recycling water knife, and flywheel uninterruptible power systems to replace acid batteries. A Chemical Management System was created, allowing faster inventory-taking, reducing the need to guess at yearly requirements and over-purchase; this also paved the way for a more efficient chemical-exchange system.

As the Pollution Prevention idea further expanded into the Sustainability realm, widespread sustainable development, outreach, coalition-building, community interface, and environmental certification programs are being conceived.

These past, present, and future P2/Sustainability projects were captured in a website which is now available for general GRC viewing. The purpose of this website is, not only to disseminate information about green projects, but to share ideas, encourage environmental stewardship, and advocate for further environmental awareness, tech transfer, and community/government/global sustainability.